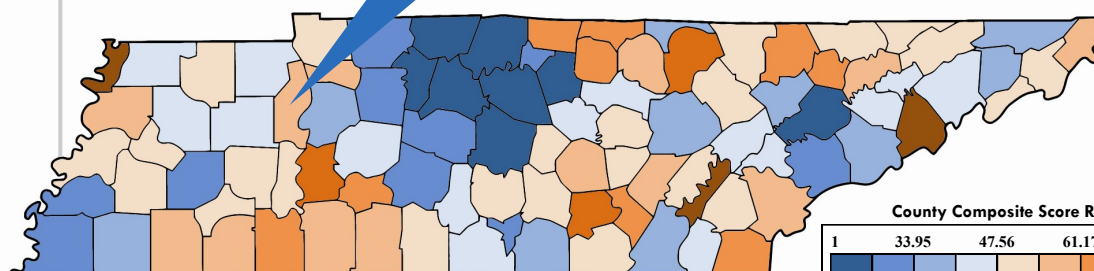


The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

SNAPSHOT: BENTON COUNTY

2012



County Composite Score Ranges



Ranges defined as 0.5 standard deviations from the mean score of 47.56.

INSIDE

Overview	Pg 1
Earnings & Employment	Pg 2
Education & Living	Pg 3
About the Council and this Report	Pg 4

Population (2010): 16,489

Pop. Density: 42/square mile

Seat of Government: Camden

Largest City: Camden

COUNTY	RANK	INDICATOR SCORES & RANKINGS	DATA	RANK
Stewart	61	Employment and Earnings Composite	53.80	65 ▲
Cannon	62	Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females*	\$26,257	70 ▲
Coffee	63	Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Male Earnings)	70.89%	74 ▲
Crockett	64	Female Labor Force Participation Rate (Ages 20-64)	64.1%	58 ▲
Haywood	65	Female Unemployment Rate (Ages 20-64)	10.2%	66 ▲
Marion	66	Percent of Management Occupations Held by Women	59.7%	1 ▲
Decatur	67	Economic Autonomy Composite	56.43	72 ▼
Wayne	68	Women-owned Businesses Percent of Total‡	22.1%	‡ □
Monroe	69	Percent of Females with 4-Year Degree or More (Age 25+)	10.5%	72 ▼
Benton	70	Percent of Females with High School Diploma or Equivalent (Age 25+)	76.6%	58 ▲
Warren	71	Female High School Dropout Rate	0.38%	50 ▼
Bledsoe	72	Percent of Women Uninsured (65 and under)	17.2%	72 ▼
Lawrence	73	Percent of Females Below Poverty Level	18.9%	38 ▲
Dyer	74	Percent of Female-Headed Households with Children in Poverty*	54.5%	71 □
Overton	75	Rate of Pregnancy for Girls Age 15-19 per 1000*	19	34 ▲
Hardeman	76	County Overview: Benton County women have experienced nominal growth in many factors, such as median income, wage equity, diploma attainment and managerial presence, but those gains have not borne out to stronger living standards. The County has improved on its statewide ranking of 86th in 2000, but growing populations of unemployed, uninsured, and poverty-stricken women weigh Benton down into the lower third of its peers. Business ownership statistics are too sparse to make reliable estimates for 2010, but the percentage of managerial positions held by women has rocketed to nearly 60 percent—a state high.		
McNairy	77			
Grainger	78			
Houston	79			

Up
from
86th

Note: all figures are based on estimates formed from sample data and are subject to sample error and rounding.

* The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual demographic survey of the U.S. It provides the detailed demographic, economic and housing data that was once supplied by the Decennial Census Long Form. The ACS has a smaller sample so combines several years' data to produce multi-year estimates. Due to the small sample size there is an increased margin of error in many less populated counties for this indicator.

** The 2005 County by County figures were based on a sample of girls age 10-19, whereas the 2012 report reflects the population of girls age 15-19.

† ACS sampling sizes are insufficient to publish certain figures for this category. An estimate was developed from the performance of surrounding counties for the purposes of creating a composite score.

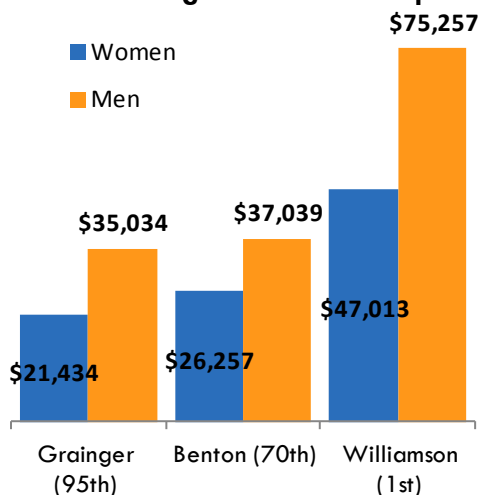
‡ Estimates are too unreliable or not available to be included in composite calculations. Any figure shown is an estimate for the reader's benefit only.

The Status of Women in: Benton County

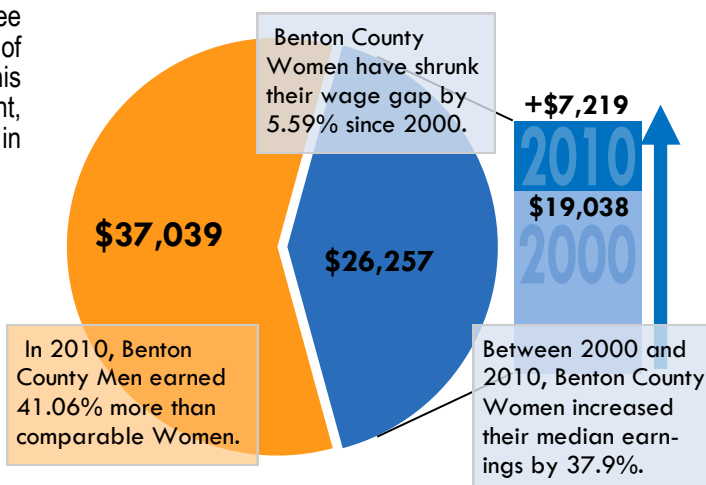
▲ Earnings

Benton County women added \$7,219 to their median income between 2000 and 2010, but remained among the lower third of earners in Tennessee at 70th, and continued to make roughly 70 percent of what their male counterparts make (ranked 74th). This progress outpaced inflation by nearly nine percent, however, and the wage gap was 5.6 percent smaller in 2010.

Median Earnings: Counties Compared



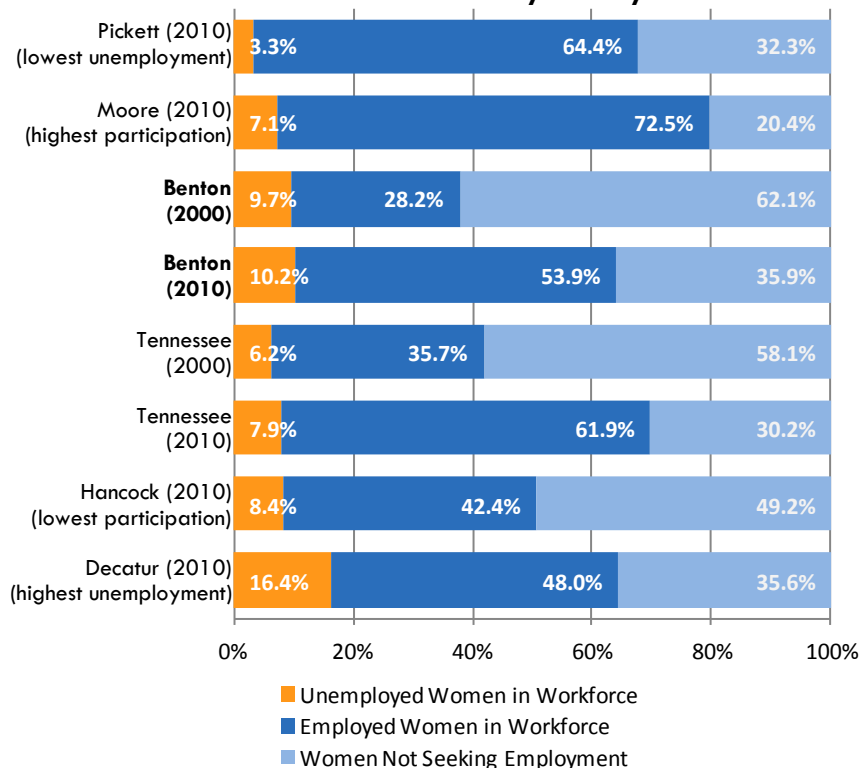
Median Earnings and the Wage Gap, 2000-2010



Both men and women in Benton County earn less than the statewide median (\$41,019 and \$31,585, respectively), but 2010 figures indicate that Benton compares better now in both the median income and wage gap categories than it did in 2000. At that time, women earned the 83rd ranked income, and were 90th in wages as a percentage of their male counterparts.

▲ Employment

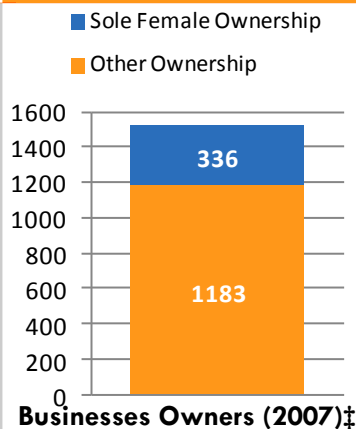
Workforce Access for Women By County and Year



Women in Bedford County participated in the workforce at a moderate rate of 66.3 percent (ranked 42nd) in 2010. Participation had grown by roughly one third since 2000, and women lagged behind men in this category by just under 15 percent.

Even as women have joined the workforce in greater numbers and outperformed their male counterparts in wage gains, they are now significantly more likely to be seeking a job than men. Unemployment among Bedford County women more than tripled between 2000 and 2010, from 4.2 percent to 12.7 percent; putting it well above both the county male rate of 7.4 percent and the statewide mark of 7.9 percent. Bedford's score in this indicator ranked below all but eight other counties.

The Status of Women in: Benton County



Women in Benton County were twice as likely to hold managerial positions in 2010 as they were in 2000—up to 59.7 percent from 23.9 percent—and were the top ranked county in this indicator in 2010. Unfortunately, this is the only measure in which Benton breaks into the top 30, and is one of only three ranked in the top half of all counties statewide. Coupled with a relatively low median income for women, this figure reflects important social progress, but leaves a gap between business titles and economic stability. Business ownership appears to have remained steady during this period, hovering at 20 percent.

Women At Work

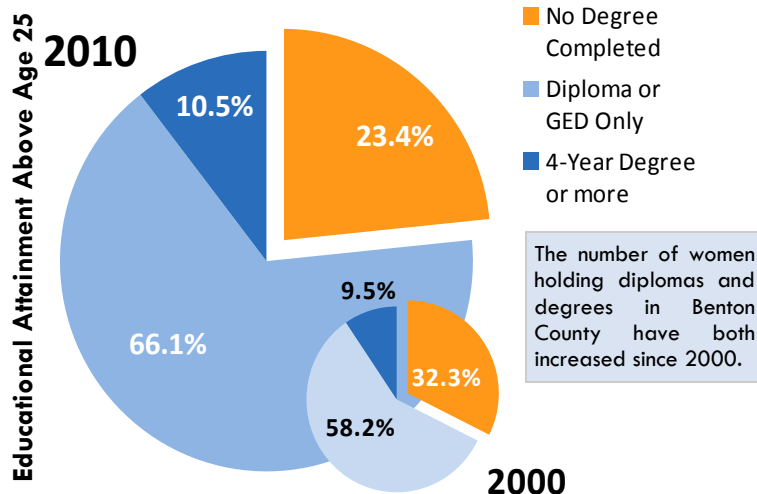
Business Management

The incidence of women managers in Benton County more than doubled between 2000 and 2010, reaching nearly 60%.

Business Ownership‡

Estimates for ownership in the county indicate that women likely maintained an ownership presence near 20% as of 2007.

Education



Local degree attainment and high school graduation rates improved between 2000 and 2010, and Benton County was home to nearly 10 percent fewer women with neither a degree nor diploma in 2010. Eight percent more women had diplomas at the end of the decade and one percent more had four-year degrees or higher.

Despite gains, Benton's population of college graduates has grown at a slower rate than many of its peers, causing it to fall 14 spots, to 72nd, in this indicator. More substantial diploma growth was sufficient to improve one place and earn 58th.

Dropouts remained below state rates at 0.38 percent during the 2011-12 school year, but fell to 50th from 4th as other counties made greater gains.

Living

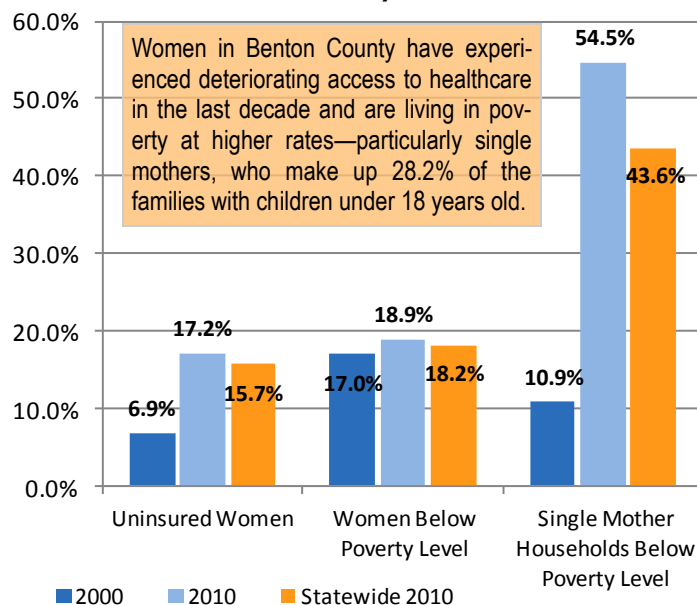
Access to health insurance decreased significantly in Benton County, with the uninsured population of women more than doubling over ten years to 17.2 percent—ranked 72nd in 2010, down from 30th.

In an interesting contrast, the population of women living in poverty was among the largest in the state in 2000 (ranked 62nd), but reportedly grew a very modest 1.9 percent to 18.9 percent in 2010. Benton was the 38th ranked county in this category in 2010.

Unfortunately, when limited to those who are the single heads of households with children, the percentage of women living in poverty increased to 54.5 percent. While this is higher than the statewide figure of 43.6 percent, it falls in line with statewide trends and Benton's ranking in this indicator remained unchanged at 71st.

The 2010 pregnancy rate among teens of 19 in 1000 girls compared favorably to the state rate of 37 in 1000.

Health and Poverty Indicators for Women: Benton County, 2000-2010



About the Council and this Report

The **Status of Women in Tennessee Counties** report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of management occupations held by women.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of women with any kind of health insurance, percentage of women living in poverty and percentage of single female-headed households living in poverty, the female high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Employment and Earnings	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Selected Economic Characteristics' *
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as Percent of Male Earnings)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Selected Economic Characteristics'
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Employment Status'
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Employment Status'
Percent of Management Occupations Held by Women	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months for Full-Time, Year-Round Civilian Employed Population, 16 year and older'
Economic Autonomy	
Women-Owned Businesses Percent of Total	U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Survey of Business Owners 'Statistics for All U.S. Firms by Industry, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race...' † ‡
Percent of Females with 4-Yr Degree or More (Age 25+)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Educational Attainment'
Percent of Females with High School Diploma (Age 25+)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Educational Attainment'
Female High School Dropout Rate	Tennessee Department of Education, 2011-2012 School Year
Percent of Women Uninsured (65 or under)	U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates
Percent of Women Below Poverty Level	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months'
Percent of Female-headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families' *
Rate of Pregnancy for Girls 15-19 (per 1000)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Fertility' *

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